



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

145724

DATE: October 2, 1980

TO: Reed Neuman - Attorney General's Office

FROM: Robert L. Schleuger, P.E. - Region VI, Collinsville *RLS.*

SUBJECT: CAHOKIA - Dead Creek

In accordance with our October 1, 1980 telephone conversation, enclosed are our file copies of memorandums, pictures and a letter concerning the disposal of waste into Dead Creek located in the Village of Cahokia.

RLS/cas

Enclosures

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INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

REPORTING INVESTIGATOR (R/I): ALAN TADLOCK/STEPHEN WOODS  
ALLEGED OFFENSE: ILLEGAL HAZARDOUS WASTE DUMPING  
DATE OF OFFENSE: NUMEROUS  
DATE CASE ASSIGNED: 09/25/80  
REPORTING DATE(S): 01/04/82 thru 01/07/82  
CASE ATTORNEY: REED NEUMAN, ASST. ATTY. GENERAL  
VICTIM(S): N/A  
DEFENDANT(S): N/A

REFERRAL AGENCY & AGENCY FILE #: ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

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PURPOSE: Report on the Dead Creek Matter - Cahokia, Illinois

01/04/82

13:25 Hours: R/I's Tadlock and Woods left the Springfield area for Collinsville, Illinois.

15:45 Hours: R/I's checked into the Collinsville Holiday Inn and had the room rate approved by Tom Pigati, Fiscal Officer, Attorney General's Office, via telephone. Arrangements had previously been made thru Mr. Pigati to charge the rooms directly to the Attorney General's Office.

15:45-16:45 Hours: R/I's reviewed the file and materials and planned the next day's activities.

01/05/82

08:45 Hours: R/I's tadlock and Woods left the Collinsville Holiday Inn.

09:30 Hours: R/I's arrived at Teamsters Local 50, 1609 N. Illinois Street, Belleville, IL. The President of Local 50, MR. JOHN GREEN, was not in and did not leave word with anyone else regarding our agreement of 12/24/81. A secretary there, named NANCY agreed to compile a list of names of former employees of HAROLD WAGGONER TRUCKING CO., if R/I's would stop back for it later in the day.

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FILE #AG81-SI-0343  
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R/I's then used the Union's phone directories to obtain address information.

10:30 Hours: R/I's left Local 50 enroute for the residence of MR. ROY BURNINE, 2405 Donna, Centerville, IL., arriving at 10:51 hours. Neither MR. or MRS. BURNINE were at home. A woman who refused to identify herself, stated that "ROY is in the hospital, he is having heart problems." MRS. BURNINE, according to the woman, was at the hospital with him. R/I's asked her to identify the hospital MR. BURNINE was in and the woman refused. She said that MRS. BURNINE would be returning home around 8:00 p.m. that evening. The woman then declined any further comment and went back inside the house. R/I's observed that her car had Missouri license plates. MR. BURNINE'S over the road tractor was parked in the driveway. The tractor had the name "KREIDER TRUCKING CO., EAST ST. LOUIS, IL" on the doors.

11:00 Hours: R/I's left Centerville and arrived at DELLA SCHMIDT'S residence, 1156 Price Street, Cahokia, IL., at 11:15 hours. She was not at home. R/I's varified that she still lived there thru her next door neighbor.

11:25 Hours: R/I's arrived at the DEAD CREEK site in Sauget, IL. Immediately on arrival, R/I's noted large and obvious breaks in the snow fence, previously installed by I.D.O.T. R/I's walked and observed another "dump site" located approximately 30 yards west of DEAD CREEK on Queeny Avenue.

11:50 Hours: R/I's left the DEAD CREEK site enroute for the East St. Louis Attorney General's branch office.

12:05-13:45 Hours: R/I's used the East St. Louis office's resources, ie. telephone, telephone books, etc. to better locate witnesses and also to check in with the Springfield office.

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13:45 Hours: R/I's left the East St. Louis office and drove to Sauget, IL., where R/I's broke for lunch at 13:55 hours.

14:15 Hours: R/I's left Sauget and drove back to DELLA SCHMIDT'S residence in Cahokia, IL., arriving there at 14:38 hours.

14:38-15:30 Hours: R/I's interviewed DELLA SCHMIDT. (Refer to her interview for details).

15:30 Hours: R/I's left DELLA SCHMIDT'S residence and proceeded on to the ROGERS CARTAGE CO., 2900 Monsanto Avenue, Sauget, IL., arriving there at 15:45 hours.

15:45-16:10 Hours: R/I's interviewed MR. CLAUDE KILZER, a former employee of WAGGONER TRUCKING CO. (Refer to KILZER'S interview for details).

16:10 Hours: R/I's left ROGERS CARTAGE CO., and drove back to Belleville, IL., to the Teamsters Local 50 Office, arriving there at 17:00 hours to pick up the prepared list of names of former employees of the HAROLD WAGGONER TRUCKING CO.

17:30 Hours: R/I's arrived back at the Collinsville Holiday Inn.

19:40 Hours: R/I's left the Collinsville Holiday Inn and drove to Centerville, IL., to the residence of MR. ROY BURNINE, intending to interview MRS. BURNINE. Arriving there at 20:00 hours, R/I's found that there was no one at home. R/I's waited for MRS. BURNINE to come home until 20:30 hours, at which time R/I's departed for the Collinsville Holiday Inn, arriving there at 20:55 hours.

01/06/82

09:00 Hours: R/I's left the Collinsville Holiday Inn and proceeded once again to the BURNINE residence in Centerville, IL. Arriving there at 09:20 hours, R/I's again found no one at home. However, R/I's talked with a neighbor who was very reluctant to speak with R/Is by offering no further information concerning MR. BURNINE'S medical condition.

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09:45 Hours: R/Is left BURNINE'S residence and drove to MR. PHILLIPS' residence, 3301 Falling Springs Road, Cahokia, IL., arriving at 10:00 Hours. MR. PHILLIPS was not at home, so R/Is spoke with his daughter, KAREN, who stated that her Father was at work at ST. LOUIS COMPRESSOR CO., located in St. Louis, Mo., and she was not sure when he would return.

10:30 Hours: R/Is left the PHILLIPS residence and returned to the East St. Louis branch office of the Illinois Attorney General, arriving there at 10:45 hours.

10:45-13:00 Hours: R/Is again used the facilities of the East St. Louis office to run down leads and addresses.

13:00-13:33 Hours: R/Is left the East St. Louis and proceeded to 300 South Grand, St. Louis, Mo. Most of the Teamsters Local unions are in different offices, but the same building. According to the Locals, each Local possesses only those names of members who belong to that Local. No Local keeps a record of members who belong to other Locals. While there, R/Is checked the list of names given by Local 50, Belleville, IL with Missouri Locals 54, 600, 603, 604, 610, 618, 688 and 700. Local 600 had two (2) members from R/Is' list, which follows:

1. BAILEY, James D. SS#500-52-8225  
634 Mary Drive  
East Alton, IL 62024

(Presently employed by B & R Transfer Co., St. Louis Mo.)

2. RICKARD, Billy J. SS-unknown  
718 Meade Street  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

(Presently employed by East Texas Motor Freight Co.,  
119 Douglas, St. Louis, Mo. 63147)

Local 618 could not check their records, which are kept on computer, without knowing the Union members social security number. The contact there is MR. JACK GLASS, telephone #314/533-8855.

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14:50 Hours: R/Is left for Local 367, 3650 Wisconsin, St. Louis, Mo., arriving there at 15:20 hours. No one there could not identify anyone from the list of names of former members of Belleville Local 50 as being current members of their Local.

15:45 Hours: R/Is left Local 367 and returned to the Collinsville Holiday Inn arriving at 16:25 hours.

16:25-1700 Hours: R/Is reviewed the day's activities and planned the next day's schedule. (01/07/82)

01/07/82

09:00 Hours: R/Is left the Collinsville Holiday Inn and drove to the residence of GEORGE W. ROBINSON, 138 N. 74th Street, Centerville, IL., arriving there at 09:25 hours, and interviewed MRS. ROBINSON. (Refer to interview for details).

10:00 Hours: R/Is left the ROBINSON'S residence and then drove to the DEAD CREEK site, Sauget, IL., arriving there at 10:15 hours.

10:15-11:30 Hours: R/Is checked, photographed and mapped out the breaks in the snow fence. R/Is also took several photos of another dump site beginning approximately 40 yards West of the CREEK, on Queeny Avenue and continuing in a Westerly direction, in a scattered fashion for another 50 yards (west) thereof. R/Is observed chemical bottles, 55 gallon barrels full of dried black substance and scattered areas of yellow substance on the ground. R/Is noted that the ground in these areas west of the CREEK ran from hard to soft to caked and crusty, etc.

11:30 Hours: R/Is left the DEAD CREEK site and arrived back to the East St. Louis Attorney General branch office at 11:40 hours, to return the maps previously borrowed from that office and to also check in with the Springfield office.

12:00 Hours: R/Is left the East St. Louis office and proceeded once again back to the Local 50 office in Belleville, in an attempt to pick up a list of social security numbers needed to better identify

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and locate those persons remaining on the list previously submitted by them. Arriving there at 12:45 hours, R/Is were told that that information was kept in Centralia and could not be obtained until 01/08/82.

12:55 Hours: R/Is left the Local 50 office and then broke for lunch. (13:00-14:00 Hours)

14:00 Hours: R/Is departed Belleville for the Springfield office, arriving there at 16:45 hours.

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ATTACHMENTS

1. Interview - DELLA SCHMIDT
2. Interview - CLAUDE KILZER
3. Interview - GEORGE W. ROBINSON

008614

INTERVIEW - DELLA SCHMIDT  
CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS TADLOCK & WOODS  
JANUARY 5, 1982  
RE: FILE #AG81-SI-343 - DEAD CREEK MATTER, CAHOKIA, IL.

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R/Is interviewed DELLA SCHMIDT, hereinafter (SCHMIDT), at her residence, 1156 Price Street, Cahokia, IL.

At first SCHMIDT declined to talk with R/Is unless HAROLD WAGGONER was present. R/Is assured her that there was nothing she could say that would further endanger him.

SCHMIDT then reiterated from her 11/20/80 interview with Investigator Woods, the incident which took place approximately 15 years ago, wherein her two sons were playing in the DEAD CREEK ditch and started small fires by stirring the dirt with sticks. For further details of this incident, her surviving son, MICHAEL HEDGECOCK, can be contacted at his present address, 1708 Oklahoma Avenue, Charleston, S.C. 29404. MICHAEL is to transfer to Washington State in May, 1982. However, he should be home (in Cahokia), for a visit around the first of April, 1982. He is a Chief in the U.S. Navy and plans to retire in five (5) years.

SCHMIDT stated that numerous individuals in the area used to dump in the CREEK. She can recall no names or identification. She further stated that sometime in the early 70's, a group of students apparently supervised by a professor from some university, (whose name she never knew), came around DEAD CREEK on two separate occasions taking soil samples.

SCHMIDT stated that to the best of her knowledge, the property located just west of DEAD CREEK is owned by an individual named WEISSE.

SCHMIDT stated that she never heard any truck activity at night and never saw anyone other than individuals dumping in the CREEK during the day. She also stated that in 1967, the CREEK at the Queeny Avenue end was filled to 1/2 its original width. She also stated that over the years, she had several pets and never witnessed any problems with them as a result of burns or anything else that could be attributed to DEAD CREEK.

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006615



INTERVIEW - CLAUDE KILZER  
CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS TADLOCK & WOODS  
JANUARY 5, 1982  
RE: FILE #AG81-SI-0343 - DEAD CREEK MATTER, CAHOKIA, IL.

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R/Is interviewed CLAUDE KILZER at his place of employment, ROGERS CARTAGE, Cahokia, IL.

KILZER as reported in his 10/21/80 interview with Investigator Woods, was formerly employed by WAGGONER TRUCKING CO., for 16 years and 9 months. While employed by WAGGONER, his main function was cleaning the inside of the truck tanks.

R/Is asked KILZER if he was ever direct witness to any dumping in DEAD CREEK. His reply was negative. R/Is also asked him if he was ever instructed by anyone to empty tank contents directly into DEAD CREEK. Again, his reply was negative, without exception.

R/Is asked KILZER if he was ever trained on how to clean the tanks, or disposing tank contents after cleaning was completed. His reply was "No, you just know". No one had ever prescribed a formal cleaning process which might vary according to the wide spectrum of chemicals hauled by WAGGONER TRUCKING.

R/Is asked KILZER if he recalled the names of any other employees not already on the list of names previously submitted by Teamsters Local 50, Belleville, IL. He answered that MR. CONNIE O'BERTS, a former dispatcher for WAGGONER is now employed by SLAY TRUCKING in St. Louis, MO.

R/Is asked specifically if he (KILZER), recalled the names of anyone else who used to work for WAGGONER, who also cleaned the truck tanks. He recalled the name of GEORGE "WILLIE" ROBINSON, who was the night shift tank cleaner. He said that ROBINSON used to live in East. St. Louis.

R/Is intensely questioned KILZER and he could not recall any other former WAGGONER employees.

R/Is asked KILZER if he had ever been told by any other WAGGONER employee of any dumping in DEAD CREEK or their observance thereof, of such dumping by anyone else. His reply was negative.

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INTERVIEW OF CLAUDE KILZER  
(Continued)

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KILZER stated that he still travels the same way to work, past DEAD CREEK on Queeny Avenue., and has never observed anyone dumping there.

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009617

INTERVIEW - GEORGE W. ROBINSON, (MRS. & SON)  
CONDUCTED BY INVESTIGATORS TADLOCK & WOODS  
JANUARY 7, 1982  
RE: FILE #AG81-SI-0343 - DEAD CREEK MATTER, CAHOKIA, IL.

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R/Is arrived at GEORGE W. ROBINSON'S residence, 138 N. 74th Street, Centreville, IL., but were unable to interview ROBINSON because he was out-of-town. However, R/Is did conduct an interview with his wife and son, which is as follows:

According to MRS. ROBINSON and her son, whose name is also GEORGE W. ROBINSON, MR. ROBINSON was former employee of WAGGONER TRUCKING CO., who worked the night shift as a truck tank cleaner. Presently, he is employed as an over-the-road truck driver for NEWMAN TRUCKING, 801 Howard Street, St. Louis, MO., (telephone #314/231-4223). The ROBINSONS' residence telephone number is 618/397-8233.

MRS. ROBINSON and her son stated that GEORGE was gone a lot and seldom home through the week.

Both MRS. ROBINSON and her son were very reluctant to talk with R/Is or supply any further information.

R/Is did not ask MRS. ROBINSON to have GEORGE call, because R/Is felt that he should be interviewed in person.

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